Senate File 171 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 171
BY ERNST

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to the issuance of special purple heart vehicle
- 2 registration plates without fee, and providing an exemption
- 3 from annual vehicle registration fees for recipients of the
- 4 purple heart medal.
- 5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

- 1 Section 1. Section 35A.11, subsection 4, Code 2013, is
- 2 amended by striking the subsection.
- 3 Sec. 2. Section 321.34, subsection 18, Code 2013, is amended
- 4 to read as follows:
- 5 18. Purple heart special plates.
- 6 a. An owner referred to in subsection 12 who was awarded
- 7 a purple heart medal by the United States government for
- 8 wounds received in military or naval combat against an armed
- 9 enemy of the United States may, upon written application to
- 10 the department and presentation of satisfactory proof of the
- 11 award of the purple heart medal, order special registration
- 12 plates with a purple heart processed emblem. The design of the
- 13 emblem shall include a representation of a purple heart medal
- 14 and ribbon. Each applicant applying for special registration
- 15 plates under this subsection may order only one set of
- 16 registration plates under this subsection. The application
- 17 is subject to approval by the department in consultation with
- 18 the adjutant general. The special plate fees collected by the
- 19 director under subsection 12, paragraphs "a" and "c", from the
- 20 issuance and annual validation of letter-number designated and
- 21 personalized purple heart plates shall be paid monthly to the
- 22 treasurer of state and deposited in the road use tax fund. The
- 23 treasurer of state shall transfer monthly from the statutory
- 24 allocations fund created under section 321.145, subsection 2,
- 25 to the veterans license fee fund created in section 35A.11
- 26 the amount of the special fees collected under subsection
- 27 12, paragraph "a", in the previous month for purple heart
- 28 plates. The special registration plates shall be issued at
- 29 no charge to the applicant in exchange for the registration
- 30 plates previously issued to the person, if any. A person who
- 31 is issued special plates under this subsection is exempt from
- 32 payment of any annual registration fee for the vehicle bearing
- 33 the special plates.
- 34 b. The surviving spouse of a person who was issued special
- 35 plates under this subsection may continue to use or apply for

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- 1 and use the special plates subject to registration of the
- 2 special plates in the surviving spouse's name and upon payment
- 3 of the annual five-dollar special plate fee and the regular
- 4 annual registration fee for the vehicle. If the surviving
- 5 spouse remarries, the surviving spouse shall return the special
- 6 plates to the department and the department shall issue regular
- 7 registration plates to the surviving spouse.
- 8 Sec. 3. Section 321.145, subsection 2, paragraph b,
- 9 subparagraph (3), Code 2013, is amended to read as follows:
- 10 (3) The amounts required to be transferred pursuant to
- 11 section 321.34 from revenues available under this subsection
- 12 shall be transferred and credited as provided in section
- 13 321.34, subsections 7, 10, 10A, 11, 11A, 11B, 13, 16, 17,
- 14 18, 19, 20, 20A, 20B, 20C, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26 for the
- 15 various purposes specified in those subsections.
- 16 Sec. 4. PREVIOUSLY ISSUED PURPLE HEART REGISTRATION
- 17 PLATES. It is the intent of the general assembly that owners
- 18 of vehicles who were issued special purple heart registration
- 19 plates prior to the effective date of this Act be permitted to
- 20 continue using the plates on the vehicles for which the plates
- 21 were issued. The following provisions apply to the owner of
- 22 one or more vehicles bearing purple heart plates issued prior
- 23 to the effective date of this Act:
- 24 1. The owner shall be exempt from the payment of any special
- 25 plate renewal fee, special personalized plate renewal fee,
- 26 and annual registration fee, as provided in section 321.34,
- 27 subsection 18, as amended in this Act, for one vehicle bearing
- 28 purple heart registration plates at the time of renewal of
- 29 the vehicle registration. The owner may transfer the special
- 30 plates to another vehicle upon assignment or transfer of
- 31 ownership of the vehicle for which the special plates were
- 32 issued.
- 33 2. If the owner has one or more additional vehicles bearing
- 34 purple heart plates, the owner may continue to use the special
- 35 purple heart plates for the vehicle for which the plates were

- 1 issued, upon payment of the regular annual registration fee
- 2 and, if the plate is a personalized plate, payment of the
- 3 five-dollar personalized plate renewal fee for the vehicle.
- 4 The special purple heart plates shall be surrendered in
- 5 exchange for regular registration plates upon assignment or
- 6 transfer of ownership of the vehicle for which they were
- 7 issued.
- 8 Sec. 5. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies on and after July
- 9 1, 2013, for new applications for purple heart registration
- 10 plates. For owners of vehicles bearing purple heart
- ll registration plates issued prior to the effective date of this
- 12 Act, this Act applies at the time of registration renewal.
- 13 EXPLANATION
- 14 This bill abolishes the fees associated with special purple
- 15 heart vehicle registration plates and exempts purple heart
- 16 recipients from the payment of annual registration fees for one
- 17 vehicle.
- 18 Special purple heart registration plates are currently
- 19 issued to the owner of a vehicle who was awarded a purple heart
- 20 medal by the United States government for wounds received
- 21 in military or naval combat against an armed enemy of the
- 22 United States. Standard special plate fees currently apply
- 23 to purple heart plates. The fee for issuance is \$25, and the
- 24 annual validation fee is \$5. Both fees are in addition to the
- 25 regular annual registration fee for the vehicle, and the amount
- 26 collected from the fees is deposited in the veterans license
- 27 fee fund administered by the commission of veterans affairs.
- 28 Purple heart plates are currently available as personalized
- 29 plates upon payment of an additional \$25 fee for issuance,
- 30 and subject to an additional \$5 personalized plate renewal
- 31 fee. The personalized plate fees, which are in addition to
- 32 the special plate fees and the annual registration fee, are
- 33 credited to the road use tax fund.
- 34 The bill provides that a person who is eligible for special
- 35 purple heart plates may order only one set of the special

- 1 plates. The purple heart plates shall be issued without fee,
- 2 and the owner of the vehicle bearing the special plates is
- 3 exempt from payment of the annual registration fee for that
- 4 vehicle. After the effective date of the bill, the issuance of
- 5 personalized purple heart plates will be discontinued.
- 6 Under current law, the surviving spouse of a person who was
- 7 issued special purple heart plates may continue to use or apply
- 8 for and use special purple heart plates upon payment of the
- 9 special plate fees and annual registration fee for the vehicle.
- 10 The special plates must be surrendered if the surviving spouse
- 11 remarries. Under the bill, a surviving spouse may continue to
- 12 use the one set of special purple heart plates issued without 13 fee.
- 14 The bill addresses previously issued purple heart plates
- 15 by allowing the owner of one or more vehicles bearing purple
- 16 heart plates issued prior to July 1, 2013, to be exempt from
- 17 special plate fees and the annual registration fee for one such
- 18 vehicle. For any additional vehicle currently bearing purple
- 19 heart plates, the owner may continue to use the plates, but
- 20 must pay the annual registration fee, and a personalized plate
- 21 fee if applicable, and the plates must be surrendered upon
- 22 assignment or transfer of ownership of the vehicle.
- 23 The bill applies on and after July 1, 2013, for new
- 24 applications for purple heart registration plates. For purple
- 25 heart plates issued prior to July 1, 2013, the new provisions
- 26 apply at the time of registration renewal.